

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): Injection nozzle (1) for a common-rail injector, having a nozzle needle (4) closing off a nozzle opening (3) of the injection nozzle (1), biased by way of a spring (2), wherein the spring (2) is disposed between a housing shoulder (5) and a contact surface (6) of the nozzle needle (4), and a piezo-element (7) is provided between the spring (2) and the housing shoulder (5),  
~~characterized in that wherein~~  
~~a piezo-element (7) is provided between the spring (2) and the housing shoulder (5) or between the spring (2) and the contact surface (6)~~ the housing shoulder (5) and the piezo-element (7) have a common opening (9), disposed concentric to the piezo-element (7), which extends from the housing shoulder (5) to the contact surface (6).

Claim 2 (currently amended): Device, particularly as recited in claim 1,  
~~characterized in that wherein~~

the piezo-element (7) is configured to be ring-shaped or as a toroid having a first face (7.1) and a second face (7.2) lying opposite the first face (7.1), and has a first electrical connector (8.1) in the region of the first face (7.1), and a second electrical connector (8.2) in the region of the second face 7.2.

Claim 3 (currently amended): Device as recited in claim 1 ~~or 2~~,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the setting path x of the nozzle needle (4) can be determined by way of the function

$$x = \frac{Q}{d_p D}$$

where Q represents the charge of the piezo-element (7),  $d_p$  represents the piezoelectric coefficient, and D represents the spring stiffness.

Claim 4 (currently amended): Device as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the displacement charge  $Q$  can be determined by means of integration of the displacement current of the piezo-element (7) during a movement.

Claim 5 (currently amended): Device as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
the intermediate values for the setting path  $x$  can be interpolated between two end positions of the setting path  $x$  of the nozzle needle (4).

Claim 6 (currently amended): Device as recited in ~~one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1,  
~~characterized in that~~ wherein  
~~the housing shoulder (5) and the piezo-element (7) have a common opening (9) disposed concentric to the piezo-element (7)~~ a piezo-element (7) is provided between the spring (2) and the contact surface (6).